

Smarter Spaces Project SSAT and Dulux



Tell us about yourselves

We are a 4 form entry Primary School in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, London. We are one school with two sites, one at Charlton which is 3 form entry and one at Thamesmead which is one form entry.

<http://www.windrushprimary.org>

We would like to introduce the Smarter Places Working Party:



Why does it need a makeover?

As a school the staff have recognised that many of us find learning within a busy classroom very difficult. We may be super shy, or let our teachers know we are finding learning hard by misbehaving. We might not quite understand the other children, or have issues working harmoniously in groups. We also may find noise too distracting or distressing.



The teachers started to think we might need a different space to learn in. Somewhere that feels different to a classroom, calmer, warmer and more homely. Somewhere where we feel safe to make mistakes when we're learning without everyone else noticing; somewhere more peaceful so we can concentrate on one thing at a time; somewhere we can go to practice working with others - focusing on the skills needed to work together rather than just the task we have to complete.

A space where time is not a pressure but a blessing.



Where would you like to make over?

The room we are focusing on for the Smarter Places Project is located at our Charlton site and is currently 2 small group rooms which we are knocking in to one modest space.

The rooms are used for a variety of purposes such as phonics or maths groups as well as a 'start of the day' group who have breakfast together. It is a very bland room, even though the breakfast club have tried to make it more homely using curtains and table cloths, but it is still very 'schooly'.



The Room

This is the corridor before you enter the room. This will be an important part of our Smarter Space

This window is opposite room 1's door



Looking towards group room 2's door, the window is to the left



Standing with our backs to group room 2's door and looking at group room 1's door, the window is to our right..



The first area is a small group room used for phonics and such like.



This is the wall we are knocking down to open the space up a bit into the neighbouring group room.



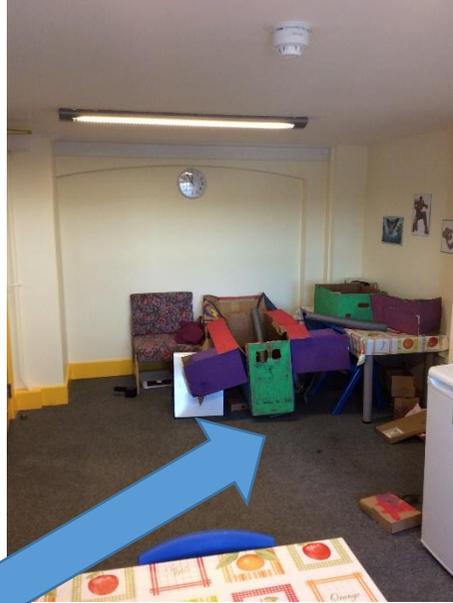
Cramped space for group work



Bland walls



No storage at all.

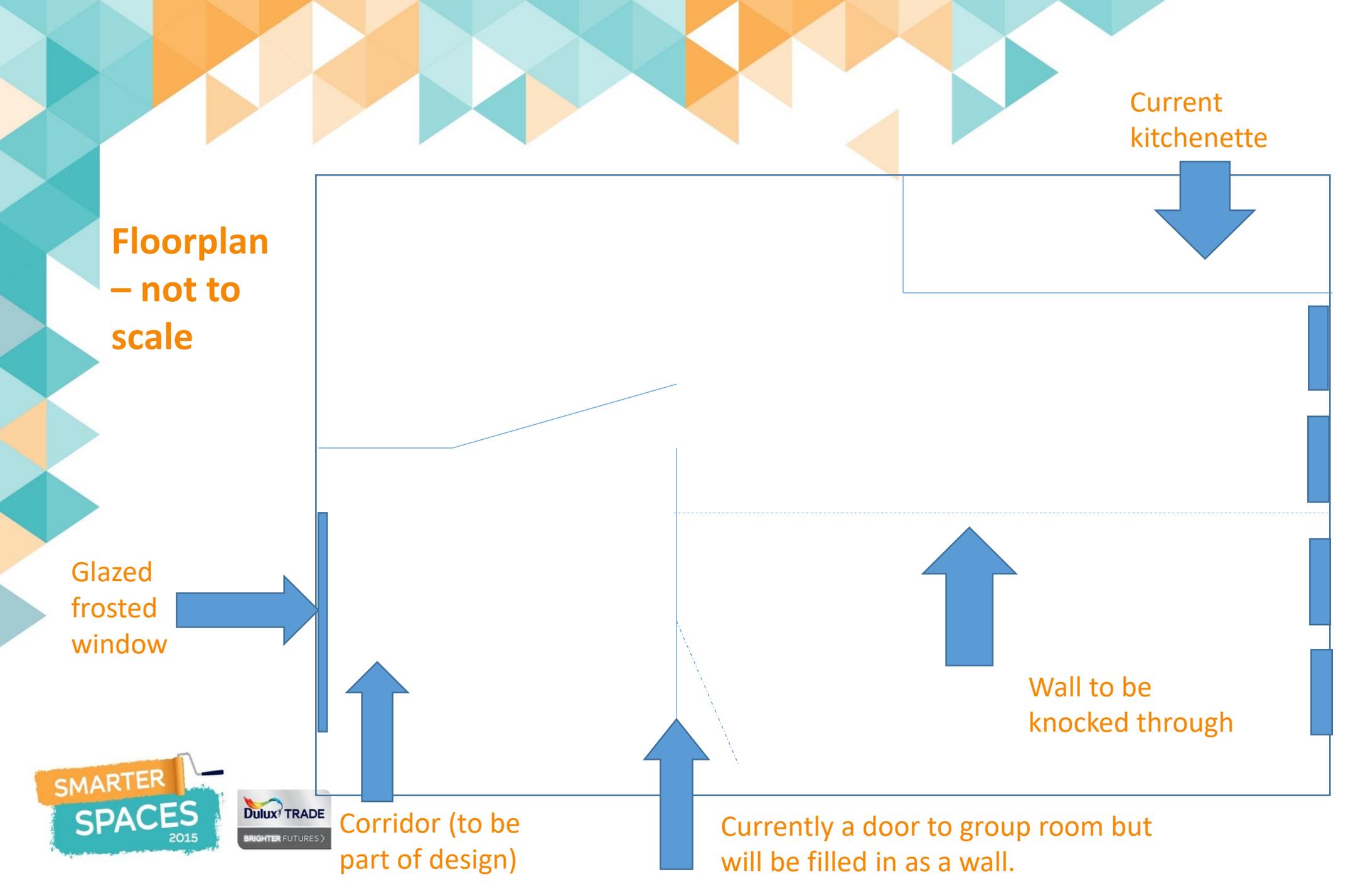


We're building dens and creating new spaces to expand our learning



This is the wall which is being knocked down to create one larger group room. It is the wall between group room 1 & 2.

The fridge doesn't fit anywhere!



Current kitchenette

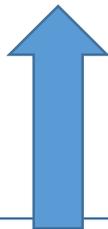


Floorplan
– not to scale

Glazed frosted window



Corridor (to be part of design)



Currently a door to group room but will be filled in as a wall.



Wall to be knocked through



What are we going to do?

- Research in to how pupils feel about their learning environments through a survey.
- Think about our own learning needs.
- Think about what makes us happy to learn.
- What would this look like in a room?
- Look at details, such as lighting, furniture, paint colour and flooring.

Who is going to do it?

We all are!

We're going to ask the children and teachers at Windrush what they think, we're also going to carry out some of the design process with our parents. Dulux designers will then help us to bring our ideas to life!

Then we are going to use the room, allow other classes and children to use it and measure its impact on our learning throughout next year.



When is it going to happen?

The Schedule for the Project is:

December

- Survey the school for where they feel they learn best and collate the information.
- To take time to think carefully about how we learn best and why.
- Design a space that we feel will help us learn better than anywhere else in the school at the moment based on the survey outcomes and our own personal experiences.
- Share these findings with the Design team from Dulux.

January

- Meet with the Dulux design team to complete the final stages of the design.
- The Dulux build team come and create our new room!

February

- We start using the room and gather evidence throughout the year and evaluate whether it has helped us learn better!



What does learning feel like?

- Before we even started the design for our room the working party got together and thought very hard about what learning feels like. Where is the best place to learn? Where is the worst place to learn? How can we create a space that is going to help us learn better?
- We started by looking at a series of pictures, we then chose one of the pictures to help explain how we feel when we are learning in the classroom.



Everyone learns differently.



How would you use the pictures to describe how you feel about learning?



Which picture would you choose?



Think carefully about what you would like to say about how you feel when you are learning in your classroom.

We chose the following pictures:

I don't like the classroom. I feel trapped and it's difficult to learn.



I love learning in the classroom. Although I'd like more friends to learn with.



I feel messy and full of energy when I am in the classroom.



I love learning in a group of friends when you have worked it out together



I need space to think, there are lots of things to work out when I'm working. I need to be on my own.



I love learning, I use my super brain powers when I'm in the classroom.



Learning is exciting and fun like climbing a mountain. It is hard work too. I feel worried sometimes.



I often find myself thinking about other things when I am trying to learn, things that make me sad.



I feel like I'm in a fight when I'm learning, a fight in my brain.



It is always so fast in the classroom, I can keep up but it makes me feel tired, but excited, like in a race.

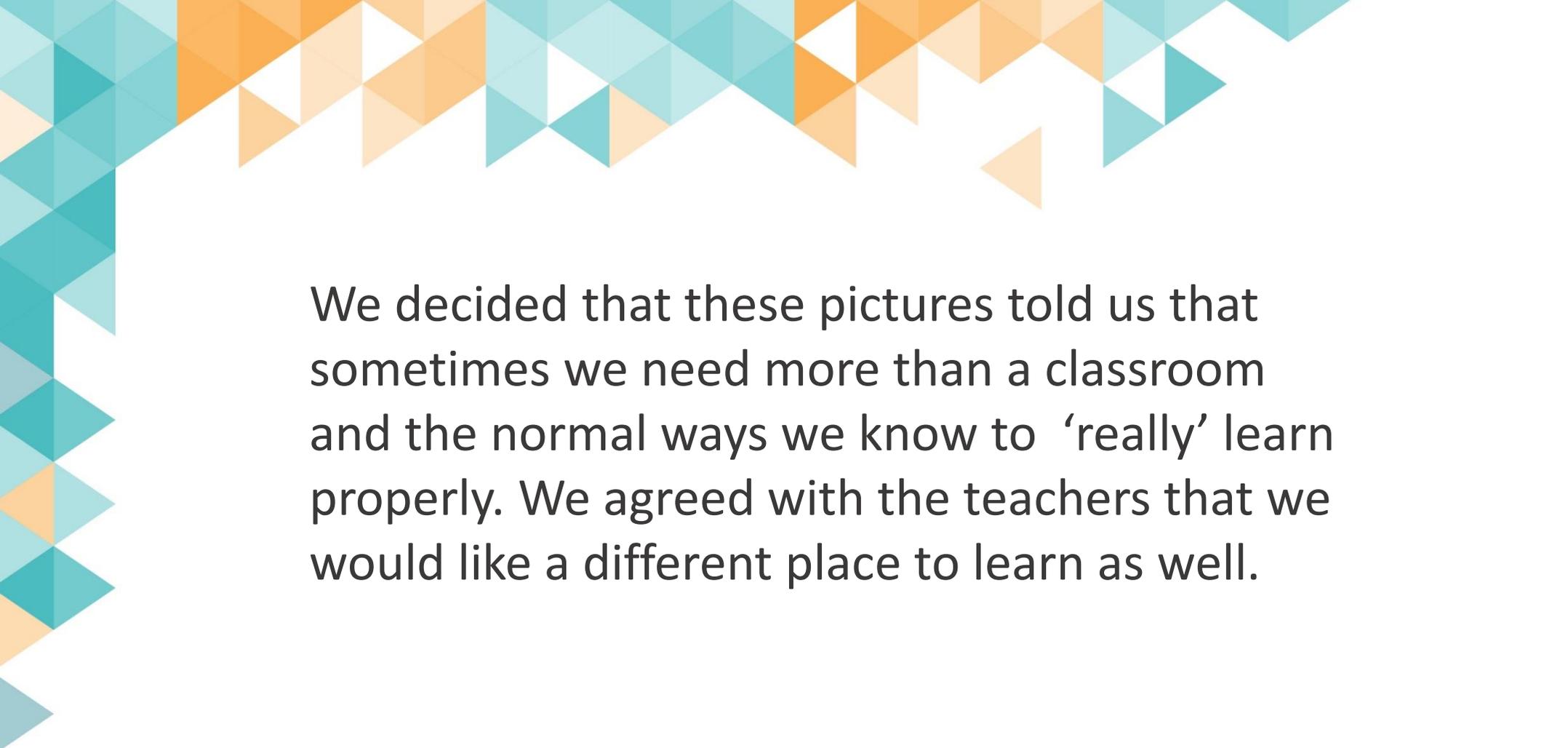


It is so busy. I feel happy a lot of the time but sometimes I feel lost.



I need other people to help me when I learn. I don't like trying on my own I get things wrong .





We decided that these pictures told us that sometimes we need more than a classroom and the normal ways we know to ‘really’ learn properly. We agreed with the teachers that we would like a different place to learn as well.



Things that help us learn

- We wanted to make sure we came up with the best design possible for our new learning room, so before we did any design research we thought carefully about how we learn best.
- If we know **how** we learn, then we can design a room that **helps** us learn!



Where is the best and worst place to learn in Windrush?

- We surveyed year 1, 2 and 3 at Windrush to find out where they thought the best places were.
- This is what we found out:



	Where do you learn best in school?	Where do you enjoy learning in school?
Classroom	34%	29%
Library	10%	14%
ICT Suite	20%	29%
Hall	7%	3%
Outside learning spaces	3%	5%
Breakouts where I can learn by myself	26%	10%
Other	0%	10%

This told us that even though the most popular area for learning and enjoying learning was the classroom, still 66% of children thought they needed somewhere different to access their 'best' learning and 71% enjoyed learning more in a different area. The ICT suite and break out areas were the favourites after the classroom.



Environment – what do we need to help us learn?

- Now we know ‘How’ we learn, and what the rest of the school think about learning spaces, we put our brains together to think about what that meant our room needed to make this happen.
- We would like key zones in our space, so we all know what is expected of us in each part of the room. This will help us learn better.
- The zones we have designed are:



Why did you choose your design?

A **welcome zone** in the corridor, this is the first thing anyone will see. It has to make people feel at ease and happy to enter the room.

A **kitchen zone** - to make snacks and have regular drink breaks which helps with concentration and a healthy body and mind.

A **dining and 'social learning' zone** – so we can learn in groups, learn how to talk to each other and listen, as well as think through ideas with other children or adults. We can practice our classroom learning skills here.

A **relaxation zone**, this is when we need a think break, or a bit of peace and quiet after all that learning. It will also help us learn how to relax.

A **play zone**, lots of us learn through playing, we can use puppets, toys and role play here to help us work through how to learn better in the classroom, and how to get along with each other.

A **concentration zone**, many of us said we learn best when we are on our own and can concentrate. This will be a work bubble, where we can go to solely focus on our work.

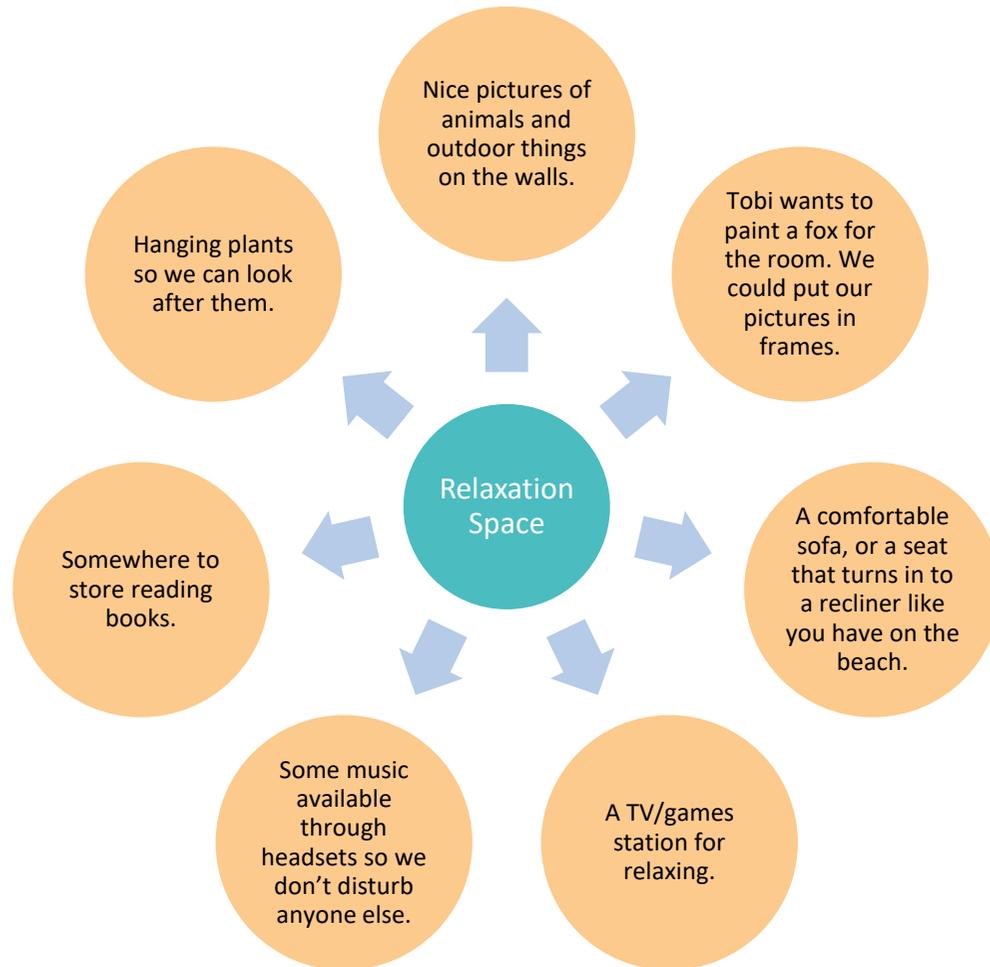
Digging Deep in Design



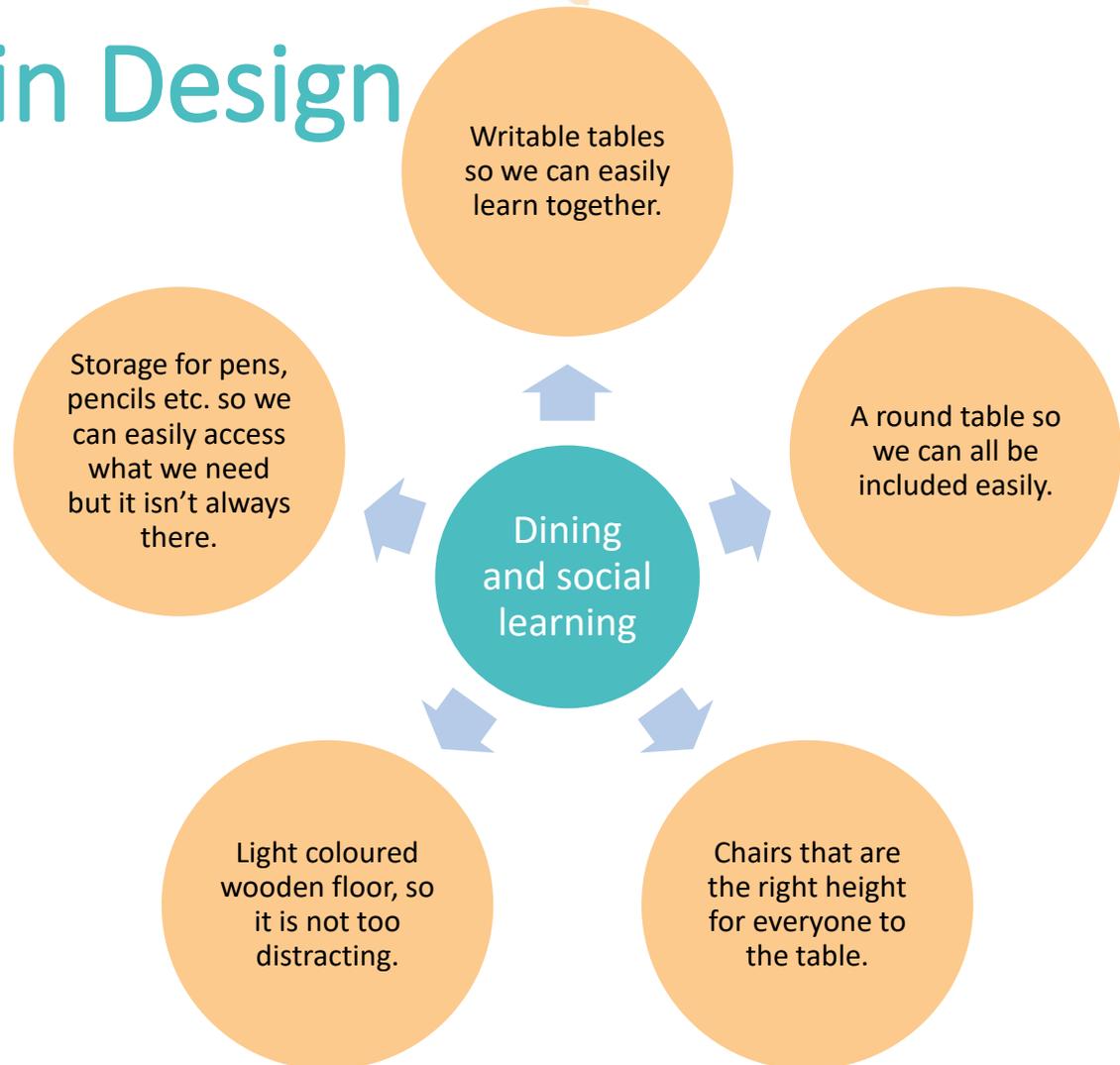
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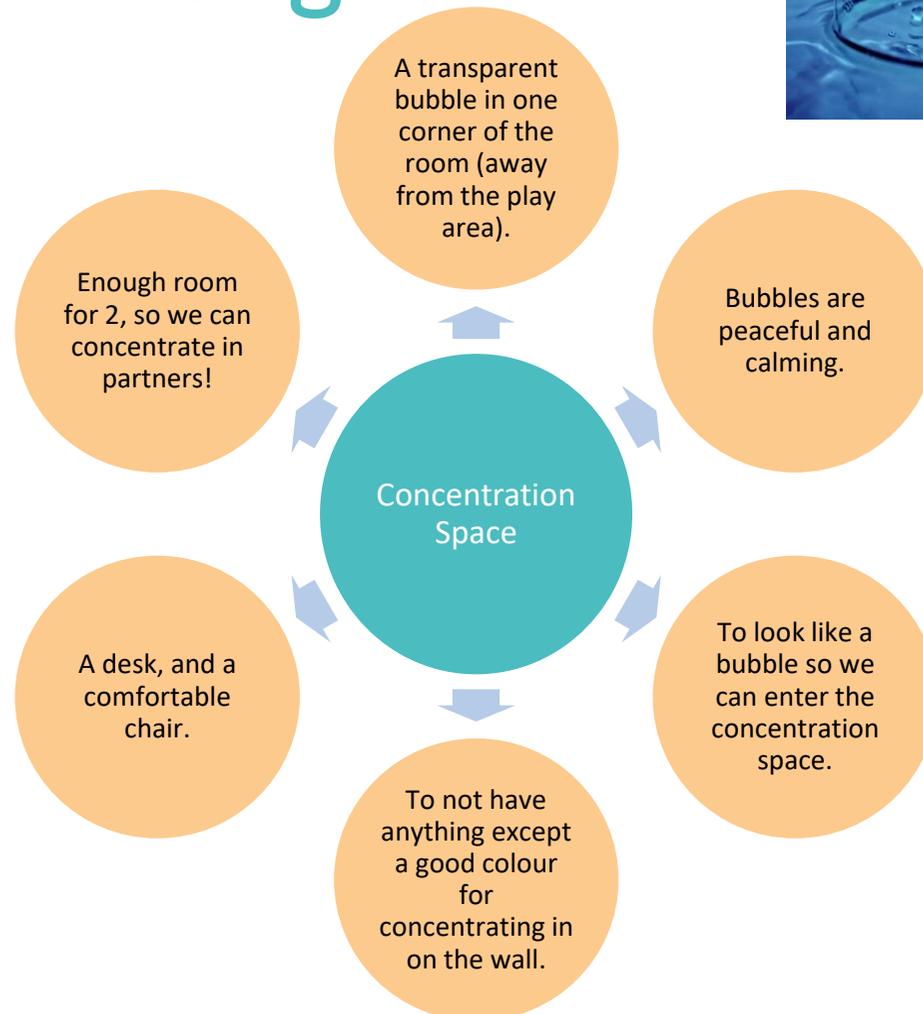
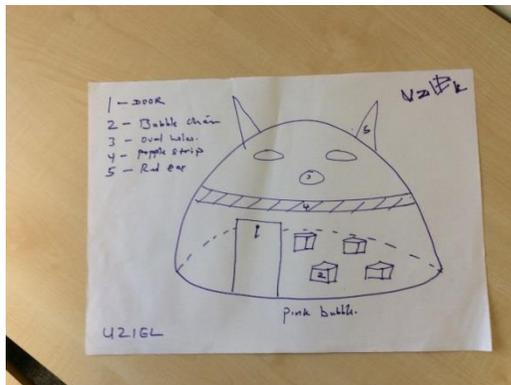
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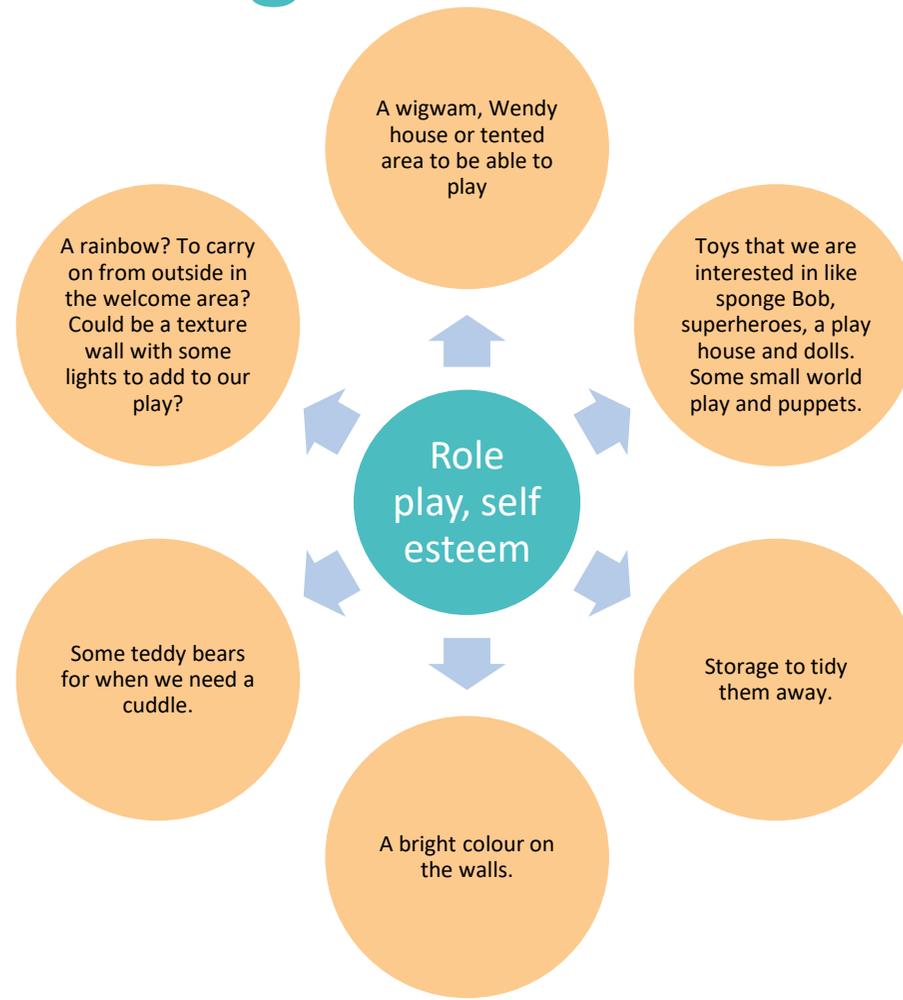
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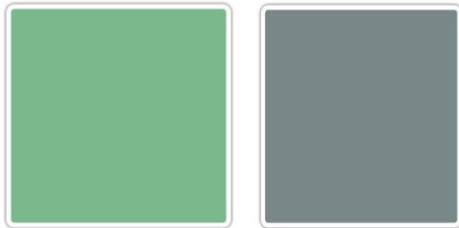
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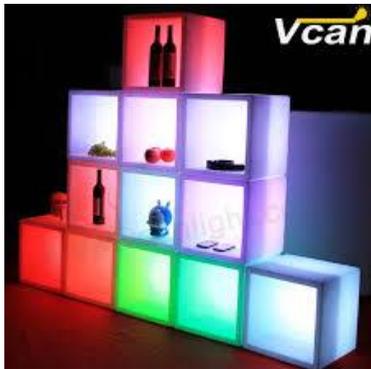
Digging Deep in Design



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Mood lighting strip so we can change the feel of the learning area.

Lighting and storage

Natural light from the windows.

Storage boxes with different lights to highlight what's inside.

How would you like it to look?

We have put all our ideas together and have decided we would like it to have the graduated colour on the walls so the colour is subtle but still enough to make it look interesting.

Any pictures we put up are frames, and we could also put up good work in frames on the walls.

The concentration zone needs to be with the relaxation zone and furthest away from the play zone to reduce distractions.

We would also really like some plants to look after. We like the hanging plants as it is interesting and doesn't take up any surface space.

We have set out a floor plan to show what we mean.



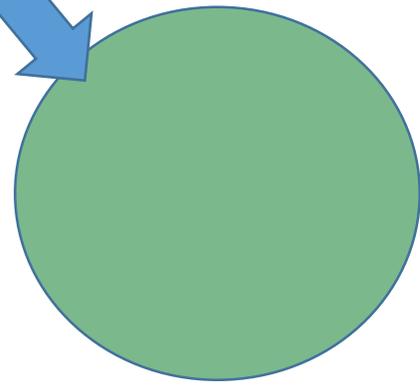


Kitchen zone

Play zone, far away from the concentration bubble and round a corner.



Main learning and social zone, We will also need some Ipads or laptops for computer work.



Stained glass window and welcome hands

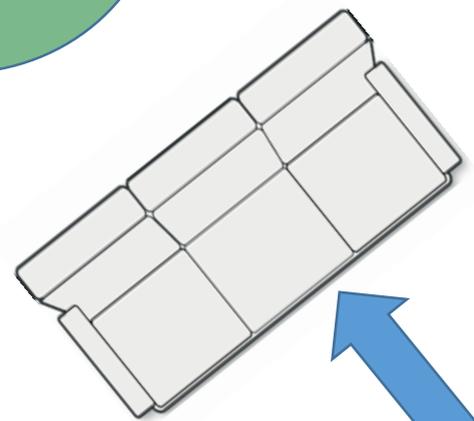
Welcome mat



Pot of wishes or worries



Concentration bubble



Relaxation zone



Functional Considerations:

The room is unfinished as the builders are going to knock down the wall and leave the electrics until we have a final design, then they will install any sockets we need once they know where they have to be put.

Otherwise it is a blank canvas.



The Wall is Down!



How will it benefit you and your school?

We believe that this space is going to change how we see ourselves as learners. At the moment our survey shows that many children do not feel that the classroom is the best place to learn. This could be because they are not taught 'how' to learn within that environment. With a special 'home from home' room we will be able to spend time away from the classroom, practicing the skills needed to learn as well as how to interact more effectively with each other.

Our parents will be encouraged to get involved, attending some lessons with us, so they can better understand how we learn and help us at home.

We will also be in charge of 'hiring' the room out for group lessons, so all the children who need this space can use it too.

